

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence**

Public Notice

Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No.

P-2625

Public Notice Date

May 21, 2007

Expiration Date

June 11, 2007

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (Charles Frerker)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Carlyle Lake Project Management Office, Mr. James Conner, 801 Lake Road, Carlyle, Illinois 62231 (618) 594-2484 **and** the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area, Mr. Joseph Middleton, 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin, IL 62217 (618) 785-2555 has applied:

a. To the USACE, St. Louis District Regulatory Branch for authorization to clear an early successional stand of scattered willow, silver maple, and other common riparian species from an approximate 12-foot-wide by 500-foot-long area (0.14 acre). The clearing of this jurisdictional wooded wetland is requested to allow site preparation for the construction of a gravel-based road. The early successional tree species are situated along the right descending bank of remnant Kaskaskia River side channel number 18, immediately downstream of an existing IDNR boat ramp. The purpose of the requested road is to create an access and maintenance route from the existing IDNR boat ramp to the mouth of the Kaskaskia River. This section of remnant side channel experiences periodic siltation, which ultimately reduces adequate portage depths for recreational vessels traveling from the IDNR boat ramp to the Kaskaskia River. The access road would allow a long reach track hoe to be driven near the bankline. Dump trucks would follow behind the track hoe to capture excavated materials, which would be trucked to approved disposal basins on either the Kaskaskia Regional Port District's property or to an existing disposal area at the top of the adjacent hillside, near the IDNR boat ramp. Department of the Army authorization P-2539 already approves excavation of this remnant side channel. P-2539 authorizes the use of a long reach track hoe, mounted on a work barge, to excavate an approximate 6 feet deep by 80 feet wide by 500 feet long area. P-2539 only allows the USACE to access the area by river and load excavated materials into a hopper barge. Hiring a contractor to transport work barges, hopper barges and a track hoe to this area is extremely expensive compared to delivering a track hoe to the site and trucking the material a short distance from the activity site via the requested access and maintenance road. The requested access and maintenance road would have a 6-inch base constructed of 170 tons (110 cubic yards) of 3" stone. The USACE and IDNR stated they could mitigate the 0.14-acre wooded wetland loss by planting wetland tree species in areas that are current agricultural food plots at the Griggs Access area. At minimum, the applicants would be required to mitigate the proposed wetland impacts by planting wetland tree species within a 0.42-acre area, based on a planting ratio of at least 110 trees per acre. (See Attached Map)

b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notice/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 11 of this public notice for Corps address).

c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval of the proposed work in accordance with "an Act in relation to the regulation of the rivers, lakes and streams of the State of Illinois" (Ill. Rev. Stat.; Chap. 19, par 52 et seq.). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, Illinois, 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

2. Based on our initial processing of the applicants' proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.

3. This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

4. The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

5. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

6. The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally threatened Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, this public notice solicits comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

7. Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before **June 11, 2007**. The decision whether to authorize the road construction will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy

use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Project authorization will be granted only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.

8. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

9. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Frerker), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to charles.f.frerker@mvs02.usace.army.mil, on or before **June 11, 2007**.

10. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

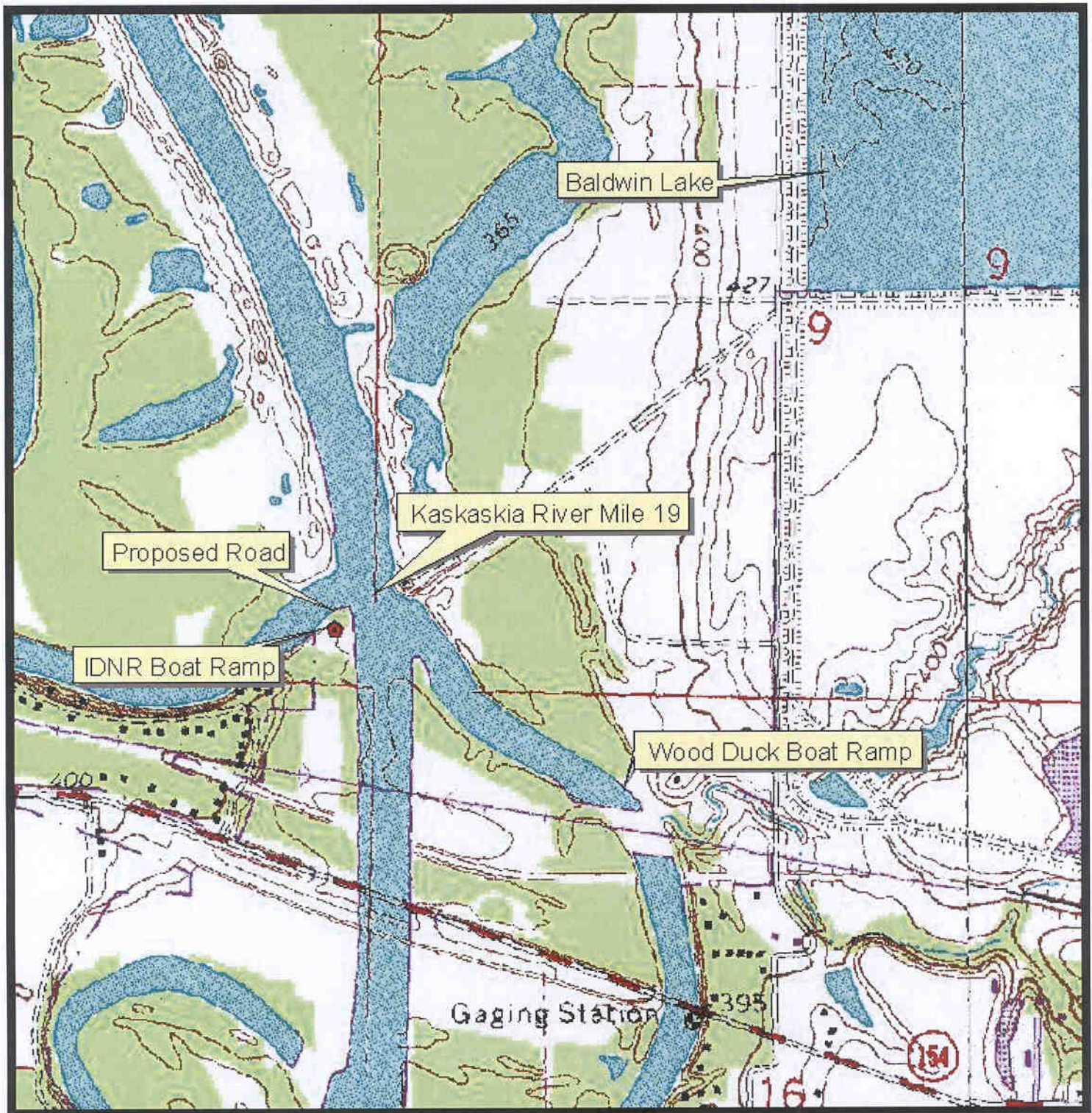
Danny D. McClendon
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

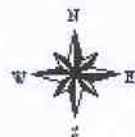
It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 21 days.

Maintenance Road P-2625



Apr 12, 2007

Made By: Charles Frerker



State: Illinois
County: Randolph
Nearest City: Grigg
Latitude: 38:11:36.1628
(38.19337855)
Longitude: -89:53:22.2665
(-89.88951847)
USGS Quad: Red Bud

HUC 8 Name: Lower Kaskaskia
HUC 8 Number: 07140204
Section: 9
Township: 4 S
Range: 7 W
Meridian: Third Principal